

Full Text PA-95-016

## FAILURE TO HEAL: CHRONIC WOUND HEALING IN THE SKIN

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### Keywords:

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National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases

National Institute on Aging

National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

National Institute of General Medical Sciences

National Institute of Nursing Research

### PURPOSE

The National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS), National Institute on Aging (NIA), the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS), and the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) invite applications for research on wounds that fail to heal, including decubitus (pressure) ulcers, venous (stasis) ulcers and diabetic ulcers. The purpose of this Program Announcement is to encourage research investigations that will provide new knowledge of the mechanisms of abnormal wound healing and/or to apply new findings or interventions to the treatment and prevention of chronic wounds in man.

### HEALTHY PEOPLE 2000

The Public Health Service (PHS) is committed to achieving the health promotion and disease prevention objectives of "Healthy People 2000," a PHS-led national activity for setting priority areas. This Program Announcement (PA), Failure to Heal: Chronic Wound Healing in the

Skin, is related to the priority area of chronic disabling conditions. Potential applicants may obtain a copy of "Healthy People 2000" (Summary Report: Stock No. 017-001-00474-0 or "Healthy People 2000" (Summary Report: Stock No. 017-001-00473-1) through the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402-9325 (telephone 202-783-3238).

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Applications may be submitted by domestic and foreign for-profit and non-profit organizations, public and private, such as universities, colleges, hospitals, laboratories, units of State and local governments, and eligible agencies of the Federal government. Women and minority investigators are encouraged to apply. Foreign institutions are not eligible for First Independent Research Support and Transition (FIRST) (R29) awards.

## MECHANISM OF SUPPORT

This PA will use the National Institutes of Health (NIH) individual research project grant (R01), FIRST (R29) awards, and interactive research project grant (IRPG) mechanisms. The IRPG mechanism is described in PA-94-086, NIH Guide, Vol. 23, No. 28, July 29, 1994.

The total project period for applications submitted in response to the PA may not exceed five years.

## RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

### Background

In spite of recent advances in the basic mechanisms of wound healing, knowledge of the factors involved in the development and treatment of chronic wounds remains limited. Future progress in the treatment of chronic wounds will require greater understanding of their pathogenesis and failure to heal. These two aspects were the subject of a Workshop sponsored by the Skin Diseases Interagency Coordinating Committee of the National Institutes of Health held on January 10 and 11, 1993. The Workshop brought together a multidisciplinary group of scientists working in the field of wound repair. A summary of this Workshop was published in the Journal of Investigative Dermatology (v.102, pp 125-7, 1994). Identified below is a selection of the areas covered in that Workshop that are relevant to this solicitation. This list is illustrative and not exclusive or restrictive.

- o Cytokines and growth factors in wound healing
- o Keratinocyte migration in the wound bed
- o The chronic wound environment
- o Changes in composition of extracellular matrix with advancing age
- o Matrix degrading metalloproteinases in wound healing
- o Metabolic changes, both systemic and in the wound environment, including changes as a consequence of chronic disease or disability
- o Local tissue hypoxia
- o Fibrin formation and removal in wound healing
- o Wound infection
- o Alterations in wound healing with advancing age, chronic disease or disability
- o Characterizing risk factors for recurring wounds
- o Clinical therapeutics in wound healing and prevention of recurring wounds
- o Factor affecting the rate of healing of decubitus ulcers, and success of treatment

## INCLUSION OF WOMEN AND MINORITIES IN RESEARCH INVOLVING HUMAN SUBJECTS

It is the policy of the NIH that women and members of minority groups and their subpopulations must be included in all NIH supported biomedical and behavioral research projects involving human subjects, unless a clear and compelling rationale and justification is provided that inclusion is inappropriate with respect to the health of the subjects or the purpose of the research. This new policy results from the NIH Revitalization Act of 1993 (Section 492B of Public Law 103-43) and supersedes and strengthens the previous policies (Concerning the Inclusion of Women in Study Populations) which have been in effect since 1990. The new policy contains some new provisions that are substantially different from the 1990 policies. All investigators proposing research involving human subjects should read the "NIH Guidelines For Inclusion of Women and Minorities as Subjects in Clinical Research," which have been published in the Federal Register of March 28, 1994 (FR 59 14508-14513), and reprinted in the NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts, Volume 23, Number 11, March 18, 1994.

Investigators may obtain copies from these sources or from the program staff or contact persons listed below. Program staff may also provide additional relevant information concerning the policy.

## APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Applications are to be submitted on the grant application form PHS 398 (rev. 9/91) and will be accepted at the standard application deadlines as indicated in the application kit. Application kits are available from most institutional offices of sponsored research and from the Office of Grants Information, Division of Research Grants, National Institutes of Health, Westwood Building, Room 449, Bethesda, MD 20892, telephone 301-435-0714. The number and title of this program announcement must be typed in item number 2a on the fact page of the application.

The completed original and five permanent, legible copies of the PHS 398 form must be sent or delivered to:

Division of Research Grants  
National Institutes of Health  
Westwood Building, Room 240  
Bethesda, MD 20892\*\*

#### REVIEW CONSIDERATIONS

Applications received under this program announcement will be assigned to an appropriate Initial Review Group (IRG) in accordance with established NIH Referral Guidelines. The IRG, consisting primarily of non-Federal scientific and technical experts, will review the applications for scientific and technical merit in accordance with standard NIH review procedures. As part of the initial merit review, a process (triage) may be used by the initial review group in which applications will be determined to be competitive or non-competitive based on their scientific merit. Applications judged to be competitive will be discussed and be assigned a priority score. Applications determined non-competitive will be withdrawn from further consideration and the Principal Investigator and the official signing for the applicant organization will be notified. Notification of the review recommendations will be sent to the applicant after the initial review. Applications recommended for further consideration and receiving sufficiently high priority will receive a second-level review by an appropriate National Advisory Council, whose review may be based on policy considerations as well as scientific merit.

#### AWARD CRITERIA

Applications recommended by National Advisory Council will be considered for funding on the basis of overall scientific and technical merit of the research as determined by peer review, program needs and balance, and availability of funds.

## INQUIRIES

Inquiries concerning this PA are encouraged. The opportunity to clarify any issues or questions from potential applicants is welcome.

Direct inquiries regarding programmatic issues to:

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## AUTHORITY AND REGULATIONS

This program is described in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance No. 93.361. Awards are made under authorization of the Public Health Service Act, Title IV, Part A (Public Law 78-410, as amended by Public Law 99-158, 42 USC 241 and 285) and administered under PHS grants policies and Federal Regulations 42 CFR 52 and 45 CFR Part 74. This program is not subject to the intergovernmental review requirements of Executive Order 12372 or Health Systems Agency review.

The Public Health Service strongly encourages all grant recipients to provide a smoke-free workplace and promote the nonuse of all tobacco products. This is consistent with the PHS mission to protect and advance the physical and mental health of the American people.

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